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Dear Mike, Sunne, and Lester:

The success of the "preferred alternative" will depend in large part on the extent to which it can compatibly (a) protect fish, (b) provide satisfactory in-channel water quality and availability for agriculture and other in-Delta uses, and (c) deliver an adequate supply of treatable water for urban use. I propose that the agenda for the next BDAC meeting should include an in-depth presentation and discussion of the through-Delta conveyance design and other measures affecting Delta and export water quality. The following items are examples of topics to be discussed.


- What is the current through Delta conveyance plan in respect to channel flows, in-channel water quality, channel alterations, water management within the Delta, structures, etc.?
- How was this plan chosen and what biological, hydraulic, and water quality analyses were made?
- What role did in-Delta interests and expertise play in developing the plan?
- If the plan does not now include control of flows through Georgianna Slough, why not? Dick Daniel has stated that the Slough carries "unnaturally high volumes of Sacramento River water into the interior Delta" and this "exposes young fish of Sacramento River origin to high levels of predation and entrainment". Why is it important to control flow through the cross-channel and not through the Slough?

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- What features of the plan serve to minimize the entrainment of bromide in the cross-flow?
- What features of the plan serve to minimize the seismic risk to conveyed water quality in consideration of evidence that seismic risk is greater in the western than eastern Delta?
- What potential is there for sonic fish barriers and for flow control on a tidal basis?
- Roughly 400,000 tons of imported salt drains into the San Joaquin River. If this salt were discharged directly to the ocean, what would be the water quality benefit in the San Joaquin River, in the South Delta, and in the DMC and State Aqueduct?
- If all of the millions of tons of salt that is imported into the South Central Valley were removed from the valley and river systems, what opportunities would this create for water trades to improve urban source water quality without exacerbating the accumulation of salt in the valley?

This list is merely illustrative of the coverage that I believe is needed for BDAC to evaluate the conveyance and water quality plan.

Sincerely,



Alex Hildebrand